

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

1. (Currently Amended) A lachrymal ~~Lachrymal~~ plug that allows a ~~adapted essentially to allow the~~ blockage of the lachrymal ducts to overcome a deficiency of the lachrymal glands by decreasing or suppressing the flow of tears toward the nasal cavities, ~~characterized in that it is constituted of,~~ the lachrymal plug comprising:

a substantially cylindrical body ~~(10)~~ having an ~~, on the~~ external lateral wall ~~walls of which are implanted; and~~

flexible elements attached to the external wall ~~[[,]] that can be applied against these walls to allow the insertion of the lachrymal plug in the lachrymal duct (4, 5), and can straighten when they are released so as to maintain said lachrymal plug in position.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The lachrymal ~~Lachrymal~~ plug according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the flexible elements comprise ~~are constituted of~~ radial pins ~~(11)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The lachrymal ~~Lachrymal~~ plug according to claim 2, wherein the pins (11) are tilted in a ~~the~~ direction of the nasal cavities (7), and

wherein the lachrymal plug ~~so that they~~ cannot be displaced by a ~~the~~ natural peristalsis of the lachrymal duct driving tears and foreign bodies inwardly.

4. (Currently Amended) The lachrymal ~~Lachrymal~~ plug according to claim 2 ~~any of claims 2 and 3, characterized in that~~ wherein the pins (11) have ~~are~~ of a constant length.

5. (Currently Amended) The lachrymal ~~Lachrymal~~ plug according to claim 2 ~~any of claims 2 and 3, characterized in that~~ wherein the pins (11) have ~~are~~ of a variable length.

6. (Currently Amended) The lachrymal ~~Lachrymal~~ plug according to claim 5, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the pins (11) have ~~are~~ of an increasing or decreasing length.

7. (Currently Amended) The lachrymal ~~Lachrymal~~ plug according to claim 2 ~~any of claims 2-6, characterized in that~~ wherein the pins (11) are arranged in helical formation around the body (10).

8. (Currently Amended) The lachrymal ~~Lachrymal~~ plug according to claim 1 ~~, characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising:  
at least one or several elements, such as flexible disk disks ~~[[,]]~~ arranged to ensure its impermeability.

9. (Currently Amended) The lachrymal ~~Lachrymal~~ plug according to claim 2 ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the flexible elements ~~are predetermined to~~ have sufficient elasticity to partially penetrate into an ~~the~~ inner wall (12) of the lachrymal canaliculus (4, 5) by straightening, ~~so as to~~ ensure that the lachrymal plug is firmly held in position.

10. (Currently Amended) The lachrymal ~~Lachrymal~~ plug according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that it is provided with~~ further comprising:  
an axial duct (13) having ~~allowing for~~ a reduced passage for ~~of~~ the tears.

11. (Currently Amended) The lachrymal ~~Lachrymal~~ plug according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the body (10) is ~~in the form of~~ has a cone, a double cone, or a diabolo shape.

12. (Currently Amended) The lachrymal ~~Lachrymal~~ plug according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that it is~~ wherein the lachrymal plug is made of metal.

13. (Currently Amended) The lachrymal ~~Lachrymal~~ plug according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-11, characterized in that it~~ wherein the lachrymal plug is made of shape memory metal.

14. (Currently Amended) The lachrymal ~~Lachrymal~~ plug according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that it~~ wherein the lachrymal plug comprises a radio-opaque reference ~~[[,]]~~ that is visible with X-rays, to facilitate ~~the~~ marking during its progression when it is positioned.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~Method for~~ positioning the a lachrymal plug according to claim 1 ~~the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ this comprising:

positioning the lachrymal plug with ~~is carried out by means of a tube (15)~~ having a push rod (16), structured and arranged to allow pressing of pins (11) against ~~the~~ an outer wall of the cylindrical body element (10) and to release the pins ~~them~~ once the lachrymal plug prosthesis is in position.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~Method for~~ positioning the a lachrymal plug according claim 1 ~~to claims 1-14~~, characterized in that this comprising:

positioning the lachrymal plug with ~~is carried out by means of an~~ instrument provided with jaws, ~~similar to those of a mechanical pencil, said~~ ~~instrument being arranged to also allow undertaking the removal of the prosthesis.~~

17. (New) The method of positioning the lachrymal plug according to claim 16 further comprising:

removing the lachrymal plug with the instrument provided with jaws.

18. (New) The lachrymal plug according to claim 1 wherein the flexible elements are structured and arranged to collapse against the external walls to allow insertion of the lachrymal plug in the lachrymal duct and straighten when released in the lachrymal duct.

19. (New) A method of positioning a lachrymal plug, the method comprising:

positioning in a lachrymal duct a substantially cylindrical body having external lateral wall and flexible elements attached to the external wall to maintain the lachrymal plug.

20. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the flexible elements comprise radial pins.

21. (New) The method of positioning the lachrymal plug according to claim 19 further comprising:

positioning the lachrymal plug with a tube having a push rod that is structured and arranged to allow pressing the pins against an outer wall of the cylindrical body and to release the pins once the lachrymal plug is in position.

22. (New) The method according claim 19 further comprising:

positioning the lachrymal plug with an instrument provided with jaws.

23. (New) The method according to claim 22 further comprising:

removing the lachrymal plug with the instrument provided with jaws.